



CERTIFIED ORGANIC PRODUCE
HANCOCK, NH

Daloz CSA Newsletter

By CSA members Marguerite Cheney

& Mary Lou O'Neil, 10/13/07

Meet

Matthew Hale

Over the past four years, a small number of people have worked hard to establish the Daloz Farm CSA. Establishing a thriving CSA is a difficult task, most often requiring years to reach economic and membership stability. To date, our CSA has relied on the support of "core" members, working with Charlie Daloz, to carry out the vision.

This core group effort has involved numerous meetings that represent hundreds of volunteer hours given to the CSA. Because the core group is open to anyone willing to attend meetings, the composition (who attends and how long) of the group has changed often over the years with the exception of Matthew Hale and Terry and Hugh Landis.



Matthew has been a steadfast, contributing member of the Daloz CSA core group since it began in 2004. His consistent involvement and perseverance has made possible the CSA program as it exists today, a working farm with 66 members.

Matthew and his wife, Sarah, reside in Hancock with their two wonderful children, Alice (15) and Owen (13). He currently works as a Technical Coordinator at Great Brook Middle School in Antrim, a job he says he "loves" where "my wife is my boss!" (cont'd on pg. 2)



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THANKS to all who made the potluck such a tasty event. A special thanks to whomever got stuck washing the dishes! :)

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(Matt cont'd from pg. 1)

But Matthew's job satisfaction is relatively recent. Only four years ago, his disillusionment with the corporate world and the consumer culture it promotes led him to quit his high-tech computer job at PC Connection. Not knowing "what should I do next?" he embarked on an 11 month, self-imposed sabbatical/spiritual-type journey to find meaning and purpose in his life. He began talking to local people from all walks of life and thinking and reading intensely about the world we live in. His concern grew as he learned about the problem of "peak oil" and the energy-dependent, Western lifestyle being adopted by Third-world countries with massive populations, e.g., China. The demand and competition for non-renewable resources (such as oil), coupled with the realization that human population growth is increasing exponentially led Matthew to the conclusion that human life, as we know it today, is absolutely "not sustainable".



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Struck by the gravity of this problem that is denied or avoided by most people in our culture, Matthew decided to do what he could to live and promote a sustainable lifestyle. It was during this time of contemplation that Matthew went to vote at the Hancock Town Hall. In the parking lot he passed a car with a small, handwritten sign on the dashboard that caught his eye. It said, "**Are you interested in joining a CSA? Call Charlie Daloz**". On his journey, Matthew had come across the concept of CSA farming and its role in working towards a sustainable lifestyle.

As a resident of Hancock and a customer at the Saturday farmer's market, Matthew was acquainted with Charlie so he gave him a call. Charlie, of course, welcomed his interest and willingness to help get the CSA off the ground. As they say, *the rest is history...*

Member 'minders...

- **Stop by on Sundays** from 10-2 to clean up leftovers at the farm store. No RSVP necessary says Abby!
- **Pick your own** herbs, lettuce, tomatoes. Staff will show you where. (I did this Saturday for the first time, it's fun! - MLO)
- **Compost Wanted:** Bring your non-meat/non-fish food compost to the bin in front of the store—and your leaves to Juan field.



Fall Sign-Ups: It will help the CSA greatly if those planning to join for the 2008 season can sign up this fall. Thank you!
(Please invite a friend to join too!)



Traugher Groh Presentation

On Sept. 26th, 20 people attended Traugher Groh's presentation at the Hancock Town Hall on "Biodynamic Farming". This event was sponsored and planned by the Daloz Farm CSA. The receptive, eager-to-learn audience was an interesting, age-diverse mixture of Monadnock region farmers and CSA members. Traugher spoke informally as he described his farming experiences and conveyed the wisdom he has gained in a lifetime of small-scale, biodynamic farming. **In 1986 he co-founded the Temple Community Farm, a very successful CSA that has 110 members in its year-round program. This farm has the distinction of being one of the first two CSA's (the other is in Great Barrington, MA) in the United States.**

Now in his 70's, Traugher began farming in Germany at the age of 24 when he took over the responsibility of a 150-acre farm with no formal training and little farming experience. "One learns through mistakes", he says with good humor while freely admitting that he and a large group of biodynamic farmers in northern Germany "did everything wrong" before learning the lessons needed to be successful in this type of farming.



He explained that biodynamic farming is based on experience working with the land, not scientific theories about agriculture.

Traugher learned that optimal plant growth and subsequent food production results when farming methods allow for (or reproduce) the harmonious, balanced state found in the undisturbed natural world. This harmonious state involves a seasonal cycle of soil breakdown and soil buildup and the farmer learns to work with the cycle. Traugher believes "nature [not man] grows all crops for free...we [the farmer] give it direction." Animals are a necessary and essential part of the cycle, especially the cow "who is the carrier of the earth's fertility". Traugher has other advice for the farmer: "do not plow" (in the deep, conventional sense), use cover crops on winter fields for mulch ("soil does not like to be bare"), and use good compost. Throughout the evening he elaborated on these and other aspects of biodynamic methods for farming.

This was an informal talk and Traugher answered questions as they arose from the audience. Questions covered a wide range of topics and helped to solicit his wisdom on a variety of topics: **"farmers need others, you have to create groups to support the leading farmer** [like a captain of a ship needs engineers, etc.], "farms need more engagement with their members than just selling and buying", "[just] selling is a problem because it divides people", "the harvest is a gift of nature which reacts if we do things right, not if we do things for the money", "the success of a farm is not measured in money". Many of his ideas are set forth in his book *Farms of Tomorrow Revisited: Communities Supporting Farms, Farms Supporting Communities*.



If you have a comment, a suggestion, or information you'd like to include in the CSA newsletter, please contact:

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CSA Question Corner

- ♦ **Would you like to know who is in our CSA?**

We'd like to publish a list of members' names.

Any objections?

- ♦ Please reply to:
mlo52@verizon.net